

## AVENUE OF THE ARTS

# pennttracks

WALKING

## TOURS OF PHILADELPHIA

### OVERVIEW:

Philadelphia has been a cultural mecca for over two hundred years. Great theatre, ballet, opera and music abound in this city, and the Avenue of the Arts is Philadelphia's cultural artery. This tour takes you along that artery and through City Hall, Chinatown, Reading Terminal Market, and into the hidden neighborhoods of Philadelphia that even the locals don't know about!

### WHY YOU SHOULD RETURN:

If you love the performing arts, you need to be acquainted with the Avenue of the Arts. Add the area's superb restaurants, and you have the making for a great night on the town. In Chinatown, for example, you can dine on cuisine from nearly every country in Asia. The Reading Terminal is the best market of its kind in the country, offering cheesesteaks, pretzels, hoagies, ice cream, and more. City Hall is an architectural gem offering bird's eye views of Philly from its tower.

**Take the Green Line trolley to 15th Street/City Hall to start your tour.**

### 1.) City Hall

#### *Broad and Market Streets*

When construction began on City Hall in 1871, it was going to be the tallest building in the world. But 30 years later, when it was done, it was the third tallest behind the Eiffel Tower and the Washington Monument. Today you can take an elevator up the tower and stand at the feet of the giant William Penn statue. It offers an amazing view of the city, and is free any weekday. Also, be sure to visit the exquisite **Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts**, which is the oldest art museum and school in the country (founded in 1805), a few blocks away at 118-128 N. Broad St.

### 2.) Prince Theater

#### *1412 Chestnut Street*

This theatre is one of the hosts of the Philadelphia Film Festival every spring, the largest film festival on the East Coast. Named after producer Harold Prince, this theater also showcases cutting edge musical theatre performances.

### 3.) Union League

#### *Broad and Sansom Streets*

This building is a testament to Philly's strong pro-Union support during the Civil War. But at the time, a number of Philadelphians believed the South should secede. Why? Because trade moved from north to south and Philadelphia was the largest border city. Eventually the city decided to support the Union, and gave more soldiers to the cause than any other Northern city.

### 4.) Zanzibar Blue and Walk of Fame

#### *Broad and Walnut Streets*

Note the many illustrious names which adorn the Walk of Fame on the sidewalk in front of the Park Hyatt Bellevue building: Billie Holiday, John Coltrane, Dizzy Gillespie. Many of them played here or are Philadelphia natives. Those traditions live on today at Zanzibar Blue, one of the city's top jazz clubs. A special treat is the jazz brunch each Sunday.

### 5.) Academy of Music

#### *Broad and Locust Streets*

The Academy opened in 1857, and its gorgeous interior is modeled after La Scala in Milan. This was the home of the Philadelphia Orchestra for a century, and is now the home of the Opera Company of Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Ballet.

### 6.) Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

#### *Broad and Spruce Streets*

This architectural masterpiece is the home of the Philadelphia Orchestra, as well as Philadanco, the famous African American ballet company. There are actually two separate theatres inside, and the artistic range extends well beyond the orchestra. Watch hip hop dancing, learn to salsa dance, hear classical, world, and jazz music, or attend one of the many free concerts throughout the year.

### 7.) Wilma Theatre

#### *Broad and Spruce Streets*

This theatre always has award-winning plays and is also a favorite of the British playwright Tom Stoppard who wrote the screenplay for *Shakespeare in Love*.

### 8.) University of the Arts

#### *Broad and Pine Streets*

This arts school is over 125 years old and is the largest such school in the nation. Students train in design, dance, music and all other forms of the arts. You can see their performances at the Arts Bank and the Merriam Theatre.

### 9.) Washington Square West Neighborhood

If you explore the alleys tucked off these main streets, you will find beautiful, intimate byways from the 1830s. On streets like Quince, Cypress, Panama, and Camac, the modern city fades away amid the workers' houses of the early 19th century.

### 10.) Mask & Wig Club

#### *310 S. Quince Street (off Spruce, between 11th and 12th Streets)*

The Mask & Wig Club is the oldest collegiate comedy troop in the country and presents hilarious musical satire. You can catch a number of their shows on Penn's campus, but their spring show is held here, at their clubhouse. This building was St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran, the first African American Lutheran Church.

### 11.) Gallery Mall

#### *Market between 8th and 11th Streets*

This downtown mall includes a KMart, Old Navy, and many other stores, large and small.

### 12.) Chinatown

#### *Friendship Gate, 10th and Arch Streets*

What began with a Chinese laundry in 1870 (see plaque at 913 Race Street), was joined by the Japanese in the early 20th century, and most recently by southeast Asians from Cambodia, Malaysia, Burma, Vietnam and Thailand, and has blossomed into a neighborhood of 4,000 residents.

### 13.) Trocadero Theater

#### *1003 Arch Street*

One of three great venues to catch smaller rock shows in Philly including the Tower Theater at 69th St. and the Theater of the Living Arts (TLA) on South Street. See [www.thetroc.com](http://www.thetroc.com) for more information.

### 14.) Reading Terminal Market

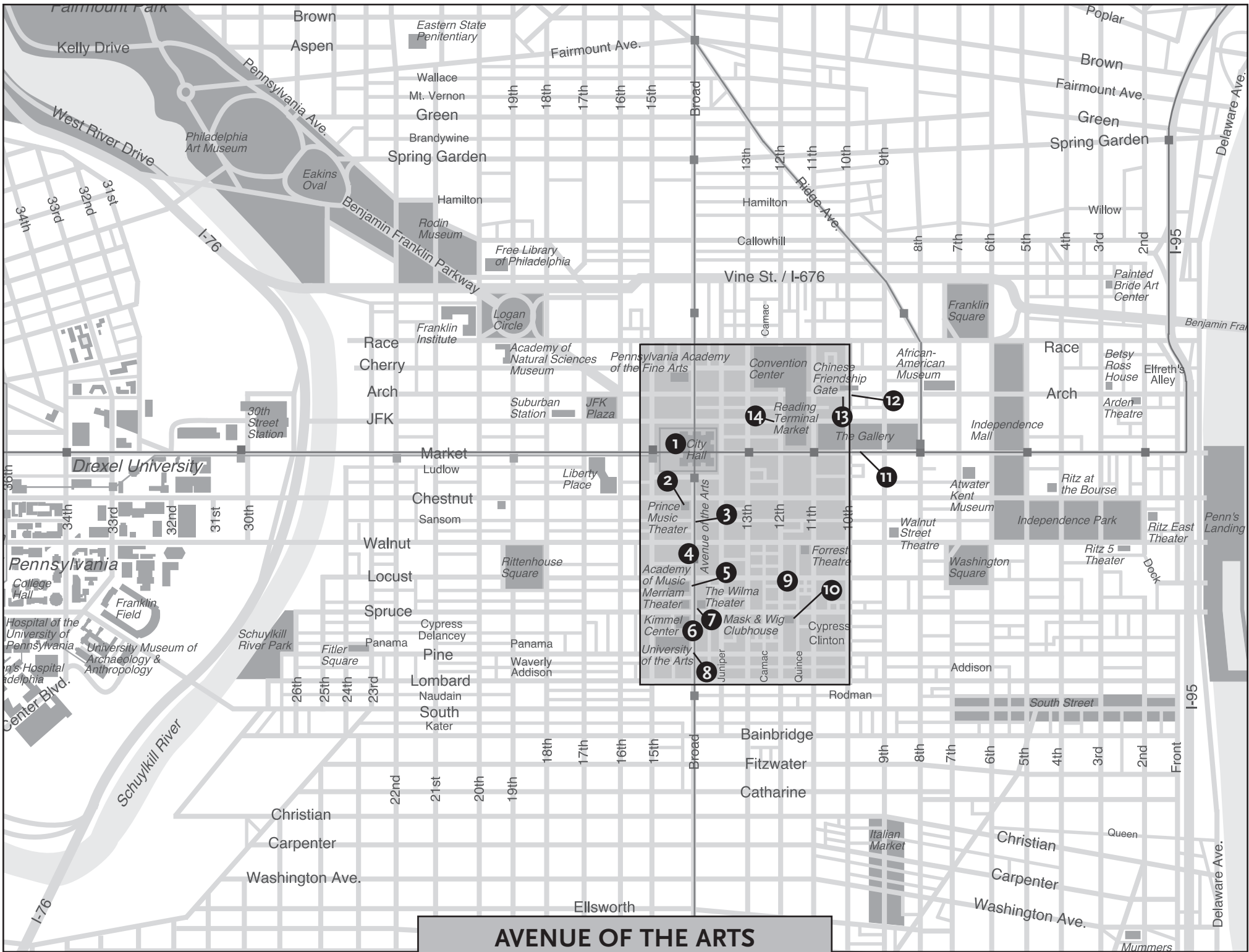
#### *12th and Filbert Streets*

Though trains no longer rumble overhead, the old train shed underneath is the century-old Reading Terminal Market, an unrivaled testament to the rich flavors of the city's ethnic neighborhoods. Treasured by locals and tourists alike, the Market offers Amish pretzels, steaks and hoagies — all Philly originals!

See [www.avenueofthearts.org](http://www.avenueofthearts.org) for more information.

**Catch any Green Line trolley except the 10 back to Penn.**

**Tour developed by Poor Richard's Walking Tours**



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